

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An ink set comprising a plurality of inks different in hues, wherein the plurality of inks includes a yellow ink containing a coloring agent that is a dye represented by the following general formula (1),



wherein A and B each independently represent a heterocyclic group which may be substituted, the dye having:

a λ_{max} of from 390 nm to 470 nm;

an $I(\lambda_{max} + 70 \text{ nm})/I(\lambda_{max})$ ratio of not greater than 0.4, in which $I(\lambda_{max})$ is the absorbance at λ_{max} and $I(\lambda_{max} + 70 \text{ nm})$ is the absorbance at $(\lambda_{max} + 70 \text{ nm})$; and

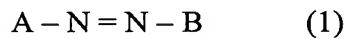
a forced fading rate constant of not greater than $5.0 \times 10^{-2} [\text{hour}^{-1}]$, in which the forced fading rate constant is decided by dissolving and/or dispersing the dye in an aqueous medium to form an ink composition for ink jet recording, printing the ink composition on a reflection type medium, thereafter measuring a reflection density through a Status A filter, specifying one point having a reflection density (DB) in a yellow region of 0.90 to 1.10 as an initial density of the ink, forcedly fading the printed matter by use of an ozone fading tester that can regularly generate 5 ppm of ozone, and determining the time taken until the reflection density reaches 80% of the initial density.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/645,795

2. (original): The ink set as described in claim 1, wherein the dye has the λ_{max} of from 390 nm to 470 nm and the $I(\lambda_{\text{max}} + 70 \text{ nm})/I(\lambda_{\text{max}})$ ratio of not greater than 0.2.

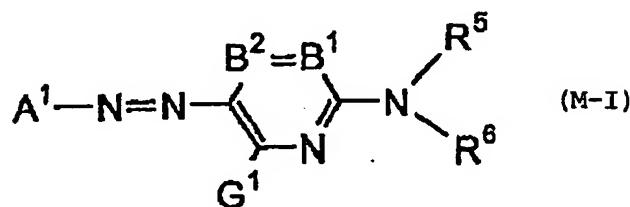
3. (original): The ink set as described in claim 1, wherein the dye has an oxidation potential of higher than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

4. (original): An ink set comprising a plurality of inks different in hues, wherein the plurality of inks includes a yellow ink containing a coloring agent that is a dye represented by the following general formula (1), the dye having a λ_{max} of from 390 nm to 470 nm:



wherein A and B each independently represent a heterocyclic group which may be substituted.

5. (currently amended): The ink set described in claim 1 or 4, which further comprises at least a coloring agent represented by the following general formula (M-I) as the magenta ink:

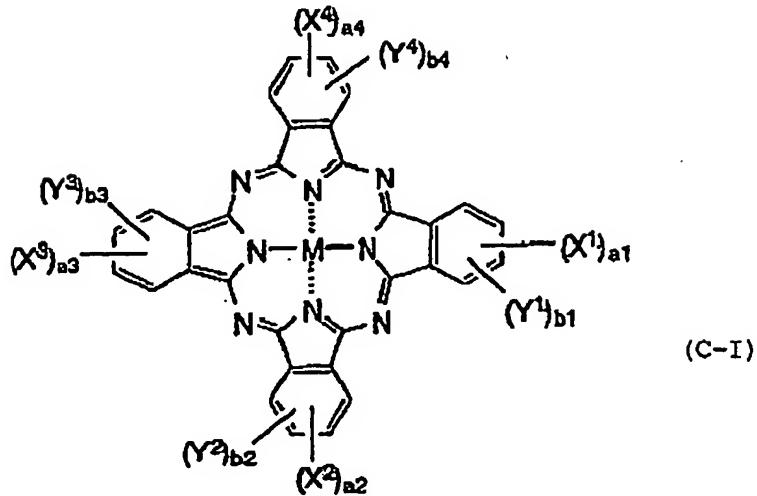


wherein A^1 represents a residue of a 5-membered heterocyclic group ~~diazo component~~ $A^1 - \text{NH}_2$; B^1 and B^2 each represent a nitrogen atom, $-\text{CR}^1=$ or $-\text{CR}^2=$, and when one of B^1 and B^2

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/645,795

represents a nitrogen atom, the other represents -CR¹= or -CR²=; R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, an aryloxy carbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkyl- or arylsulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, which may further have a substituent group; G¹, R¹ and R² each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, an aryloxy carbonyl group, a heterocyclic oxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, a silyloxy group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, an alkoxy carbonyloxy group, an aryl oxy carbonyloxy group, an unsubstituted amino group, an alkylamino group, an arylamino group, a heterocyclic amino group, ~~(containing a heterocyclic amino group and an anilino group)~~, an acylamino group, a ureido group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkoxy carbonylamino group, an aryloxy carbonylamino group, an alkyl- or arylsulfonylamino group, a heterocyclic sulfonylamino group, a nitro group, an alkyl- or arylthio group, an alkyl- or arylsulfonyl group, a heterocyclic sulfonyl group, an alkyl- or arylsulfinyl group, a heterocyclic sulfinyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfo group or a heterocyclic thio group, which may be further substituted; and R¹ and R⁵, or R⁵ and R⁶ may combine with each other to form a 5- or 6-membered ring.

6. (original): The ink set described in claim 1 or 4, which further comprises a coloring agent represented by the following general formula (C-I) as the cyan ink:



wherein X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 each independently represent $-SO-Z^1$, $-SO_2Z^1$, $-SO_2NR^{21}R^{22}$, $-CONR^{21}R^{22}$ or $-CO_2R^{21}$ in which Z^1 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group; and R^{21} and R^{22} each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group; Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 and Y^4 each independently represent a monovalent substituent; $a1$ to $a4$ and $b1$ to $b4$ each independently represent an integer of from 0 to 4 indicating the number of substituents X^1 to X^4 and Y^1 to Y^4 , with the proviso that $a1$ to $a4$ are not 0 at the same time and when $a1$ to $a4$ and $b1$ to $b4$ each represent an integer of not smaller than 2, the plurality of X^1 's to X^4 's and Y^1 's to Y^4 's may be the same or different; and M represents a hydrogen atom or a metal atom, or oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof.

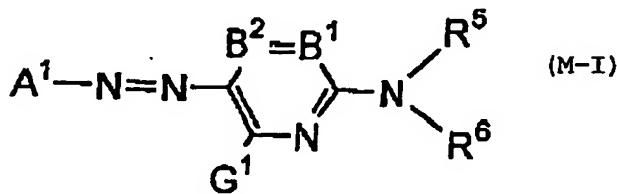
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/645,795

7. (currently amended): The ink set as described in claim 5, wherein the magenta ink includes a set of two or more inks different in ink concentration, and the ink concentration of one magenta ink is 0.05 to 0.5 ~~time~~ times that of the other magenta ink.

8. (currently amended): The ink set as described in claim 6, wherein the cyan ink includes a set of two or more inks different in ink concentration, and the ink concentration of one cyan ink is 0.05 to 0.5 ~~time~~ times that of the other magenta ink.

9. (original): A color ink cartridge comprising at least a yellow ink, wherein the yellow ink includes the coloring agent described in claim 1 or 4.

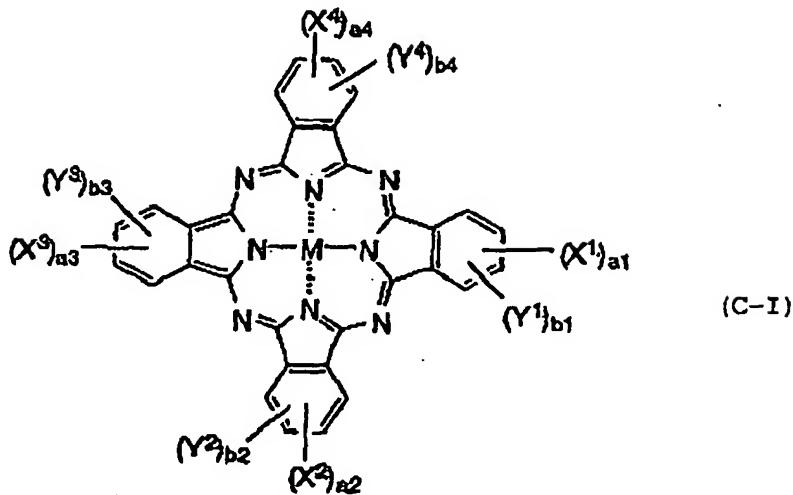
10. (currently amended): The ink cartridge described in claim 9, which further comprises: a coloring agent represented by the following general formula (M-I) as the magenta ink; and a coloring agent represented by the following general formula (C-I) as the cyan ink:



AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/645,795

wherein A¹ represents a residue of a 5-membered heterocyclic diazo component A¹-NH₂ group; B¹ and B² each represent a nitrogen atom, -CR¹= or -CR²=, and when one of B¹ and B² represents a nitrogen atom, the other represents -CR¹= or -CR²=; R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkyl- or arylsulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, which may further have a substituent group; G¹, R¹ and R² each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a heterocyclic oxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, a silyloxy group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, an alkoxy carbonyloxy group, an aryl oxycarbonyloxy group, an unsubstituted amino group, an alkylamino group, an arylamino group, a heterocyclic amino group, (containing a heterocyclic amino group and an anilino group), an acylamino group, a ureido group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkoxy carbonylamino group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, an alkyl- or arylsulfonylamino group, a heterocyclic sulfonylamino group, a nitro group, an alkyl- or arylthio group, an alkyl- or arylsulfonyl group, a heterocyclic sulfonyl group, an alkyl- or arylsulfinyl group, a heterocyclic sulfinyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfo group or a heterocyclic thio group, which may be further substituted; and R¹ and R⁵, or R⁵ and R⁶ may combine with each other to form a 5- or 6-membered ring,

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/645,795



wherein X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 each independently represent $-SO-Z^1$, $-SO_2Z^1$, $-SO_2NR^{21}R^{22}$, $-CONR^{21}R^{22}$ or $-CO_2R^{21}$ in which Z^1 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group; and R^{21} and R^{22} each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group; Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 and Y^4 each independently represent a monovalent substituent; $a1$ to $a4$ and $b1$ to $b4$ each independently represent an integer of from 0 to 4 indicating the number of substituents X^1 to X^4 and Y^1 to Y^4 , with the proviso that $a1$ to $a4$ are not 0 at the same time and when $a1$ to $a4$ and $b1$ to $b4$ each represent an integer of not smaller than 2, the plurality of X^1 's to X^4 's and Y^1 's to Y^4 's may be the same or different; and M represents a hydrogen atom or a metal atom, or oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/645,795

11. (currently amended): An ink jet printer ~~using~~ comprising the ink set as described in claim 1 or 4.

12. (currently amended): An image recording method which comprises ~~using~~ forming an ink jet image by inkjet printing with the ink set described in claim 1 or 4 to conduct color printing.